

# Shocking State of a Brooklyn Hospital. Patients Two in a Bed and Scattered on the Floors in the Kings County Hospital---Consumptives Not Isolated.

The Kings County Hospital, at Flatbush, is in a condition that would be a disgrace to the civilization of Turkey. The truth of this is certified by a State Commissioner of Charities and also in a more eloquent manner by the photographs which are printed here.

The physicians and other authorities of the hospital are anxious to call attention to its disgraceful condition—a condition due to public neglect. The Staff Association recently appointed a committee to investigate the institution and draw up a report on the subject. This committee took the photographs reproduced here. It is felt that these tell better than words the true state of things.

This institution is the chief hospital of Brooklyn. It is obliged to receive all residents of the county and all persons sent to them by the Commissioners of Charities. The hospital has room for 450 patients, and there are never less than 600 in it, but very often more. It treats about 6,000 patients in a year.

Sick men have to lie two in a bed in this chief hospital of one of the largest cities in America. The wards contain more beds than they should, the beds contain more persons than they should, and even there the overcrowding does not stop. The floors are covered with patients.

As there are many diseases which make it impossible to put the sufferers two in a bed, even in this wretched hospital, the remaining patients less severely afflicted are all the more crowded. The building, with its normal capacity of 450, is sometimes obliged to give sleeping accommodation to over 700 sick men, women and children. Its condition at such times is nothing short of a horror. For example, what could be more revolting to decent humanity than an overcrowded maternity ward? That is to be found in this hospital. It is true they do not make the patients lie two in a bed there, but the ward is far too small.

This hospital was built in 1842, when the city had less than one-sixth of its present population. We are not noted for the preservation of antiquities in this land, but Brooklyn has a hospital which for disreputable antiquity cannot be surpassed. In fifty-four years it has not been materially enlarged.

The reason of this disgraceful state of affairs is chiefly the refusal of two officials to sanction the expenditure of money for the improvement of the hospital. For the past few years the Charities Commissioners of Kings County, Messrs. Sims, Burdett and Henry, have recognized the necessity for additional hospital accommodations and have done everything in their power to relieve its overcrowded condition, but have been handicapped by the Board of Supervisors, now extinct, and by the veto on the part of Supervisor-at-Large Thomas Ritchie, of a resolution authorizing the issue of \$500,000 in county bonds for the erection of a new hospital.

When that project fell through, the Commissioners applied to the Board of Aldermen for the necessary relief, and they authorized the Commissioner of City Works to advertise and enter into a contract by which the hospital facilities be very much increased, at an expenditure of about \$400,000. The present Commissioners had saved during the fiscal year ending July 31, 1896, the sum of \$500,000 for the purpose of increasing the facilities of the hospital, which amount of money they deposited with Comptroller George W. Palmer, who, however, refused to allow it to be used for the purpose intended, claiming that this money was an unexpended balance of last year's allowance, and should go to the revenue fund of the city. Thereupon the Charities Commissioners secured a mandamus ordering the Comptroller to apply this sum to the use of the hospital expenses. The Court decided that he must do so. He, however, appealed from the decision of the Court, and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has not yet rendered its decision. The department believed that the decision will be favorable to its plans for extending the hospital, and as soon as the decision is handed down the Commissioners hope to have the necessary improvements made.

The physicians themselves have insufficient quarters in the building, but the nurses are much worse off. They are obliged to sleep in the same wards as the patients. Only three have rooms elsewhere, and that is in an engine house. The consequence is that good nurses are difficult to obtain and impossible to keep. It is hard enough work to nurse the sick without having to sleep with them.

Commissioner Tunis G. Bergen, of the State Board of Charities, has made a report on the condition of this institution. Some of his remarks are worth quoting. He calculates that the wards should not contain more than 450 beds and the same number of patients. The morning he went there the hospital had 608 patients.

Two wards are used for the storage of drugs, including many inflammable materials, making the danger of fire very great. There are no separate rooms for convalescents who must remain in rooms where they have been sick with other diseased persons. Their recovery is often greatly retarded.

There are from one hundred and fifty to two hundred consumptives in the hospital. They fill more than one ward, and in many cases are not separated from the other patients.

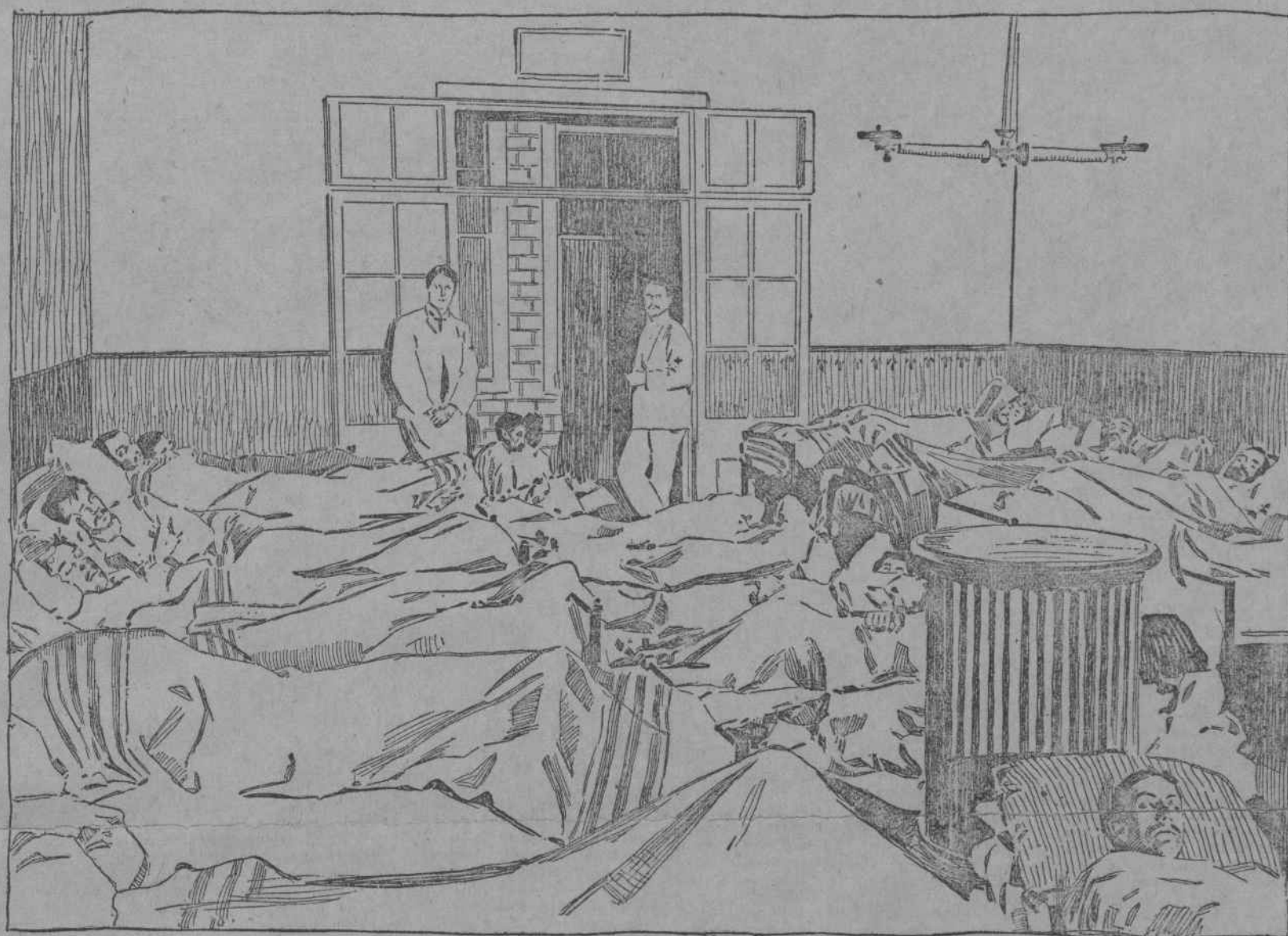
The physician in charge thinks that with better accommodations there would be a saving of from one to three weeks in the period spent in the hospital by patients. Owing to the age of the building and lack of money for repairs, the sanitary arrangements are very bad. The patients eat their meals in the wards in an atmosphere which cannot be free from disease germs and amid surroundings which would turn a very strong stomach.

Last week at a meeting of the Staff Association of the hospital, composed of thirty-eight physicians of the city of Brooklyn, resolutions and recommendations regarding

the condition of the hospital were adopted, and are about to be presented to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction of Kings County.

Dr. John A. Arnold, the medical superintendent of the Kings County Hospital, who is also the head of the Staff Association, has been most assiduous in his re-

## PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING THE CROWDED CONDITION OF KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL



quests for relief. It was with this object in view that the special committee was formed, the result of whose investigations has been the photographing of several of the wards and the compilation of an extensive report, which will be submitted to the Board of Charities Commissioners.

Besides recommending the enlargement or extension of the hospital, it suggests that the number of resident physicians be increased. At the present time there are eight. Their duties are the care of 700 patients in the hospital, between 1,400 and 1,500 people in the almshouse, as well as the nursery and foundling asylum, and the pavilion for the feeble-minded. They also visit and attend about 5,000 charity patients throughout the county of Kings. Their living quarters are inadequate and require extension.

Under the present regime the nurses have no quarters whatever for their personal use, and are forced to sleep in the wards with the patients, by reason of which they are practically on duty all the time, getting improper rest. This naturally tends to deteriorate the quality of their service, and makes it impossible to secure first-class nurses.

It is also proposed to have a separate department for consumptives on account of the danger of tubercular infection. A convalescent pavilion is also recommended; now there is no place whatever in which to put the convalescents, which necessarily retards their recovery.

The Commissioners are willing to have erected a room for special nerve diseases or suspected infectious cases.

The consulting staff of the hospital is composed of such prominent men as Dr. Skene and Dr. McCordie, and upon the visiting staff are Dr. McNaughton, president of the Kings County Medical Society; Dr. Bogart, Dr. Bristol West, professor in the Long Island College Hospital; Dr. J. M. Winfield, and other well-known physicians of Brooklyn.

### A NEW GERMAN BAND.

This One Is Not to Spoile, but to Drink Beer, and It Is Going to Tour All Germany.

No one but a German would ever have originated the idea of such a pilgrimage as is about to be undertaken by a band of beer drinkers of Berlin. It will certainly be the most novel kind of pilgrimage ever organized. Under the patronage of St. Gambrinus these pious votaries will set forth this month to visit all the great brewing centers of Germany, from Munich to Pilsen. It is proposed in the space of one short week to halt at Nuremberg, Dresden, Leipzig, Culmbach, and as many more towns as possible on the way where the cult of malt and hops flourishes in all its pride. The work of the pilgrims is therefore cut out for them, and though there will be many mighty "bier koenigs" among them, not a few may be expected to fall by the wayside. This, indeed, is the principal fear which haunts the minds of the promoters of this unique pilgrimage—that the zeal of their followers may overmaster their prudence. For this reason there has been appended to the programme, which has already appeared, a warning, in type bigger and blacker than the rest, to the effect that the eyes of the empire will be upon them, and that it is hoped they will bear themselves in a manner worthy

of citizens who hail from the imperial capital. It is said that these novel pilgrims will have the blessing and sanction of Prince Bismarck himself, and there are deep regrets that old age and failing health will prevent him from heading the procession, as he certainly would have loved to do in the days of his prime.

What particular object these beer-loving Berliners have in view, except that of not knowing thirst for a whole week, is hard to discover. They doubtless are able to give the best reasons to their families, however, for their projected pilgrimage. "A pilgrimage, indeed, without some good reason or sanction back of it would be no pilgrimage at all," once said Geoffrey, of Monmouth, an old English chronicler. According to him, it was no end of a joke to go on a pilgrimage, for everybody was witty and had something scurrilously funny to tell to keep the spirits up.

### HOW SHE DID IT.

That Is, How She Got a Polite Young Man on the Drive to Give Her Wheel Wings

"How do I keep my wheel in good order all the time without its costing me a cent for repairs?" said one bicycle girl to another, as they were resting on a bench on Riverside Drive last Sunday morning. Both were pretty and wore the fetchingest of

## A Good Laugh With the Gay Wits of the Stage.

One poor little joke has survived the political campaign. Whittle, the ventriloquist at Tony Pastor's, has this conversation with one of his dummlies: "They are going to make the next issue of silver dollars heavier." "Sorry to hear that. It's hard enough to raise them now."

Here is a story that illustrates the difference between English and American humor. A "bobby" with a particularly ugly face stopped a caddy and warned him against fast driving. As the caddy drove slowly away he turned in his seat and said, mournfully: "You didn't send me that photograph of yourself you promised me."

Speaking of Gaylor reminds me of the

a big wagon and small horse, regaled a friend with an account of the good times he had. "There were twelve of us in the wagon," he concluded. "What? Ah! that poor little horse dragged them all?" "As coarse. But then each of us had a whip."

Merrily Yours,

MARSHALL P. WILDER.

New York City Post Office.

### A WALDORF HUSKING BEE.

Cider, Apples and Doughnuts and Dancing in Real New England Style.

Next Friday night—the Friday before Thanksgiving—the National Society of New England Women is to give a real old-fashioned husking bee in the ballroom of the Waldorf.

From the beginning of the husking at 8:30, to its close with the dinner at 12:30, it will be a perfect and ought to be very charming reproduction of wholesome and old-time New England pastime. Hospitality of the quaint New England sort will be the keynote of the evening, and society folk will throw aside modernisms and British accent and be the matron and maid and youth and man of a hundred years ago.

The interior of the room will be gotten up as much like an old New England barn

## Winifred Black's Talk with a Woman Senator.

(Continued from Page 14.)

quality, but an assumption, a sticking out of the elbows and a raising of the head and a strutting." Mrs. Cannon pointed her elbows and raised her head and began to strut, but she thought better of it and sank into her chair again. "That is as offensive to me in a man as in a woman. All the best men I know are ladylike, and all the best women I know are gentlemanly. You catch my idea, I perceive."

I did not catch the idea, but I gave a perfunctory nod, and Mrs. Cannon said: "Our great teacher, Brigham Young, understood all this when he said, and I heard him say it with these ears of mine, 'The day shall come when men and women shall walk together side by side in the temple.' That day is dawning now. Electricity will soon do away with much of the domestic drudgery. Women are growing wise and men are growing gentle. I think the millennium is coming sooner than we have hoped."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE MILLENNIAL?

"In the millennium," I said, "will there be polygamy?"

"No," said Mrs. Cannon, calmly. "We won't need it then. Each will find his affinity and be happy."

"And will there be no Legislatures, ward politics and women's shouters?"

"Oh," said Mrs. Cannon, "you are too literal. Women mustn't be too literal. Men—now Mrs. Cannon's eyes grew pathetic, and there was a platform ring in her clear voice—"men are wedded to the present—women are promised to the future."

"But you are not promised to the future," I said. "You have arrived."

"Arrived?" said Mrs. Cannon, mildly raising her delicate brows in an expression of sweet interrogation.

"Yes," said I, "the first woman Senator in America."

"Ah," said Mrs. Cannon, "the first woman Senator."

"I hadn't thought of it in that light. It does seem some sort of milestone, doesn't it? Well, I will have to try to live up to my privileges."

Then we both said good-by and went our respective ways.

WINIFRED BLACK.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 14.

### OTHER CURIOUS RESULTS.

The Election of a Negro in Boston and a Baseball Umpire in New York City.

Among the curious results of the campaign were the election in New York of a baseball umpire who will take his seat in the next Assembly at Albany, and the triumph of a negro in Boston, who will sit in the august Executive Council of the Governor of Massachusetts.

Isaac B. Allen is the Boston negro who has suddenly found himself prominent by reason of his having been elected a member of the Executive Council of the Governor, the most aristocratic body of men in the political machinery of the State Government. It was totally unexpected by both his friends and enemies. The nomination was in the nature of a concession to the colored voters of the district, to catch their votes for the Republican National ticket, and it was expected that the Democratic nominee for the place would win in a walk. Allen's opponent was John H. Sullivan, treasurer of the Democratic State Committee, and formerly a member of the council.

In the great tidal wave of Republicanism that swept the State the negro was forgotten, and the Republican voters in the district cast straight tickets instead of scratching Allen. According to the official recount of the ballots, Allen received a clear majority of sixty-two votes. Allen does not even represent the better element of his race. He has been arrested once for rape, and a man by the same name served a sentence in the House of Correction.

### THE BASEBALL ASSEMBLYMAN.

In the Tenth New York City Assembly District Jeremiah Sullivan beat Otto Kempner, his Democratic opponent, for the Assembly by four votes. The district was supposed to be safely for Kempner, who was the Tammany candidate, but Sullivan, to use his own words, "got a life on four balls, stole two bags and slid in to the home plate with the winning run."

Sullivan is one of the best authorities on the national game in New York. Ever since he was old enough he has followed the game, first as a player, but in later years as an umpire in the National League. His description of his victory, in the technical parlance of the field, is unique:

"I will have my eye on the scoreboard right from the jump, and the first error made will result in a call down from your humble servant. They can't sleep on their bases nor slide too fast for me. They will have to hit the question square and fair, and the first foul will be grabbed before it skins the catcher's nose. And I won't stand no bunts, either."

"I am going into the game with a picked nine, and the first man who tries to throw a down about at my shin will see me pick it off with the point of the bat and lift it into centre field in plain view of the spectators."

### AN EASY JAILER.

This German Official Made His Prisoners So Happy They Could Not Stay Away.

In Germany they have discovered a jailer who made his prisoners so comfortable that they would not stay away, although he gave them every opportunity to get out. He is now to be prosecuted by the heartless authorities.

His name is Bader, and he was the chief warden in the Marienwerder prison, in Leipzig. He is accused of having turned the jail into a comfortable private hotel for all and any of his prisoners who could pay for the privilege. Not only did he supply them with money, playing cards, liquor, newspapers and tobacco, but he entertained the most liberal of the prisoners in his own house, and used one of the cells as a bar and supper room. For a considerable time he allowed certain of his boarders to go home at night, escorting them back in the early morning, while others received their wives to an at-home in their cells.

### FOOD AND THE DRAMA.

Late English Dinners Injure the Theatre and Exalt the Music Hall.

The lateness of the dining hour in English fashionable society arouses bitter complaints from managers of the better class of theatres. Mr. Beerholm Tree, the well-known actor-manager of the Haymarket Theatre, writes an article denouncing the practice.

The lovers of the legitimate drama affirm that the prevailing dinner hour indicates a serious advance in sensuality and intellectual degeneration. The rich and fashionable, the members of the class which should be cultivated, neglect the better theatres in order to go to the music hall or in listening to a cheap musical comedy.

The usual dinner hour among those who call themselves fashionable is now 8 o'clock. This is the hour fixed by the Prince of Wales, and the people who ought to be the best patrons of the theatres hasten to follow his example.

Of course, if you dine at 8, you cannot with much comfort be at the theatre at half-past 8. Some of the fashionable who have still a kindly feeling for the legitimate drama manage to be in their seats a little past 9 o'clock, and finish their after-dinner conversation there. On the other hand, it is more common for the dilettantes to put in two hours of heavy eating and drinking.

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M. V. Larkin, No. 109 Adelphi street, Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "Dyspepsia and its complications was one of my afflictions for a long time. Everything I ate gave me great distress and pain. I became nervous and generally run down. The best physicians did not help me. I began using the Munyon's Remedies. Relief was almost immediate. After a few doses I found that all my stomach trouble had disappeared, and now I am completely restored to health. I cannot praise Munyon's Remedies too high."

Mr. Crook, 278 West Forty-third street, "There is nothing so effectual in asthma as Munyon's Asthma Remedies; they cured me completely."

Mr. J. P. Lemon, 654 Carroll street, Brooklyn, "Munyon's Cough Cure and Cold Cure are particularly wonderful in their action; they cure a cough or a cold immediately."

Mrs. Morris, 61 Laidlaw avenue, Jersey City Heights: "Had rheumatism twenty-eight years; could not raise my arm without the greatest agony. Two bottles of Munyon's Rheumatism Cure cured me completely. In my daughter's case Munyon's Nerve Cure effected a marvellous cure. We never think of doctors since we learned the value of Munyon's Remedies."

Mr. G. E. Randall, Islip, L. I.: "Munyon's Kidney Cure permanently cured me after all other remedies failed."

Mr. E. F. Parker, Port Richmond, Staten Island: "I tried the catarrh treatment of specialists without benefit. Was in constant misery over my throat full of mucus and pains over my eyes. Finally I tried Munyon's Remedies. Relief was immediate, and now I am wholly cured."

John Derbyshire, Gravesend Beach: "Munyon's Bladder Cure does wonders. It relieves all bladder troubles immediately and promptly effects a complete cure."

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